

THE MONITOR

A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of the Eight Thousand Colored People in Omaha and Vicinity, and to the Good of the Community

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State Supreme Court Sustains the Mayor

The Chief Executive of Minneapolis Upheld in Right to Revoke License of Photoplay.

A FAR-REACHING DECISION

Will Be Cited in Fighting "The Birth of a Nation" in Other Cities Where Attempts Are Made to Present It.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 10.—The supreme court of this state has just handed down a sweeping and far-reaching opinion upholding the right of the mayor of the city of Minneapolis to revoke the license granted by the city council for the exhibition of "The Birth of a Nation" at Shubert's theater in that city. The opinion was delivered by Mr. Justice Harmon in which the entire supreme court bench concurred.

The case has attracted nation-wide attention on account of the bitter fight made in the city council of Minneapolis on the occasion of the hearing before that body when application was made by the management of Shubert's theater for a permit to exhibit the film.

History of the Case.

About seven weeks ago the manager of the exclusive Shubert theater of Minneapolis applied to the city council for a permit to exhibit "The Birth of a Nation." When the application was made, notice of the date of the hearing before the city council was published as required by the ordinance, prominent citizens of both races appeared before the council, some protesting against and others advocating the issuance of the license. After two days' hearing the council granted the permit to the theater to exhibit the pictures. Mayor Nye, conceded to be one of the most liberal and fair-minded officials ever elected in Minneapolis, acting upon his best judgment and the advice of influential friends who had seen the picture, notified the management of the film that he would exercise the discretionary power vested in him by law, and revoke the license granted by the city council. He accordingly issued the order revoking the license. The theater management then took recourse to the circuit court of Hennepin county. A bill for an injunction was filed praying that a restraining order be entered to prevent the mayor from interfering. The city law department vigorously resisted the application made in the court. A full and complete hearing was had in the circuit court in which the merits of the picture and its effect upon the public mind were exhaustively gone into. The presiding judge ruled against the complainants and sustained the mayor by dismissing the bill. From the decree of the Hennepin county circuit court an appeal was taken direct to the state supreme

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Thoughts From Our Own Authors

Think oft of the hearts you may gladden,
The tears you may soon chase away,
The many kind deeds that the wanderer needs
To keep him from going astray.

—Mrs. N. F. Mossell.



SILAS JOHNSON, SUCCESSFUL HEADWAITER

Who holds record for longest continuous service in same Omaha hotel.

Why White People Should Read Negro Newspapers.

(Editorial in The New York Age.)

A correspondent writes to us from Tonopah, Nevada, saying that he is making an effort to get as many white subscribers as possible for The Age. At the same time he asks us to state some reason why white people should read Negro newspapers.

In the first place, we wish to say that our correspondent shows himself to be a wideawake man. How many agents of colored newspapers are there who realize that it is possible to interest white readers? That it is possible, even easy, is proved by the fact that The Age has among its subscribers a large number of white peo-

ple. The names of some of the white people who read The Age regularly would make an astonishing list.

There are several good reasons why white people should read Negro newspapers; one of them is that the white people of this country ought to know what the ten million colored people who live amongst them think of them. Sometimes our opinion of our white fellow citizens is very high; they would find that gratifying. Sometimes our opinion is just the opposite; they would find that instructive.

However, the principal reason why

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Colored Canadians Prevent Photoplay

Popular Windsor Theater Will Not Show Objectionable "Birth of a Nation" Film.

OFFICIALS ACT PROMPTLY

Management of Show House Announces Cancellation of Attraction.

Windsor, Ont., Dec. 4.—Fighting quietly but systematically since last Sunday night against the production of the photoplay, "The Birth of a Nation," in the Windsor theater, advertised for next week, the colored people of the city have scored a victory, James Harkus, manager of the showhouse, announcing, Wednesday night, the film had been cancelled.

When the leading colored residents read the advertisements in the newspapers Saturday of the proposed appearance of the film in Windsor, they immediately got together to prevent its coming, being convinced that the pictures and words accompanying them were an injustice to their race. They held a special meeting in the A. M. E. church, Mercer and Assumption streets, after the regular service, Sunday night, and decided to protest against the picture to the administration.

Mayor A. W. Jackson was waited on by a delegation, headed by James Nall, on Monday. On Wednesday afternoon a delegation, composed of I. C. Parker, James Nall and William H. Kelly, the latter acting as spokesman, waited on Maj. J. C. Tolmie, M. P. P., placing their protests before him.

Maj. Tolmie at once dispatched a telegram to Hon. W. J. Hanna, provincial secretary, Toronto, who is also at the head of the Ontario board of film censors, the message calling attention to the grievances of the colored people of Windsor and asking him to help them, if possible. Mr. Hanna sent no reply, but the manager of the theater was later advised by the company controlling the film that the engagement for Windsor "was off."

"We are indeed pleased to hear that the production is not coming to Windsor," said Mr. Kelly on hearing of the cancellation. "We feel that the film is unjust and harmful to the colored people, inasmuch as it portrays the Negro in the worst possible light, representing him as everything that is bad. We admit that there are bad men in the race, just as there are among the whites, but it is unfair for any author to embitter and prejudice the white race against the colored because of the acts of the comparative few who violate the law. The majority of the colored people in Canada and the United States are trying to be good citizens and we feel that that spirit should be encouraged rather than harmed by antagonistic films and other agencies."